

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2024

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENIGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5186

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE, XG

SUBJ: EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE

REF: BERLIN 6487

1. GDR JOURNALISTS CALLED TO THE GDR MFA JANUARY 28
TO RECEIVE FOREIGN POLICY REPORTING GUIDELINES FOR THE
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WEEK REPORTEDLY WERE GIVEN A PESSIMISTIC ACCOUNT OF THE

CURRENT STATE OF PREPARATIONS FOR A EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE. ACCORDING TO A GDR JOURNALIST WHO ATTENDED THE MEETING, AN SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE CLOSE TO THE GDR ECPC DELEGATION HAD APPEARED AT THE WEEKLY MFA SESSION TO TELL THE JOURNALISTS THAT SERIOUS OBSTACLES REMAINED AFTER THE JANUARY ECPC WORKING GROUP MEETING THAT WOULD LEAD TO FURTHER DELAYS IN CONVENING THE CONFERENCE. WHEN ASKED WHAT THE CURRENT TIMETABLE MIGHT BE, HE HAD RESPONDED CAUTIOUSLY, SAYING THAT HE HOPED THE ECPC COULD BE CONVENED BY THE END OF 1976.

2. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, ECPC DIFFICULTIES DISCUSSED AT THE MFA MEETING INCLUDED DISARMAMENT, THE BINDING OR NON-BINDING NATURE OF THE ECPC DOCUMENT, AND GDR RELUCTANCE TO REFER TO SOCIALIST OR SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES PER SE WITHOUT MAKING DISTINCTIONS. SOURCE REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO PROBLEM OF PLACING FRENCH SOCIALISTS AND WEST GERMAN SPD UNDER ONE RUBRIC WITHOUT SOMEHOW REFERRING TO THE FACT THAT ONE WAS MORE "PROGRESSIVE" THAN THE OTHER.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SINCE OCTOBER THAT A GDR SOURCE HAS REFERRED TO GDR MISGIVINGS ON THE QUESTION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST PARTIES AND SPECIFICALLY TO THE QUESTION OF HOW TO TREAT THE SPD WITHIN THE ECPC FRAMEWORK. IN EARLY OCTOBER, A MEMBER OF THE GDR INSTITUTE FOR POLITICS AND ECONOMICS (SEE REFTTEL) HAD TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE GDR COULD NOT AGREE TO CHARACTERIZING THE SPD AS PROGRESSIVE, AS LONG AS FRG SOCIAL DEMOCRATS STILL OFFICIALLY SUPPORTED GERMAN REUNIFICATION. THE FACT THAT THIS ISSUE HAS NOW BEEN RAISED AGAIN BY A GDR SOURCE INDICATES THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN SOME BACKSLIDING AT THE DECEMBER ECPC DRAFTING GROUP MEETING IN EAST BERLIN. IN ANY EVENT, THE QUESTION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN COMMUNIST AND SOCIALIST PARTIES APPEARS TO REMAIN OPEN WITH PREPARATIONS FOR AN ECPC DECIDEDLY OFF THE TRACK FOLLOWING THE JANUARY DRAFTING GROUP MEETING. GROVE
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